



The Spectacle

From the Office Down the Hall

One of the pleasures of working at a historic site is observing the recurring convergence of past events with current ones. G.W.P. Custis, and later Robert E. Lee were both so involved in national events, social movements and politics that it usually comes as only a mild, but pleasant surprise when the ripples of their distant cast still reach us today. The effect of Lee's decision at Arlington House and his work after the Civil War is certainly an obvious example—we exist today as a national memorial entirely due to his actions. More subtle are connections such as Custis' decision to send slaves back to Africa's west coast and the recent conflict in Liberia.

But more interesting, perhaps, are instances when current events are not so much directly related to historic events as just similar. Or as a National Public Radio reporter once said, "history doesn't repeat, it just rhymes." When I realize that someone like Custis or Lee survived the same kinds of problems we have today, I sometimes gain more empathy and understanding of their actions and perhaps even feel some sense of validation in my own worries.

Trying to make ends meet comes to mind. This past week I have been working on our mid-year budget review. This reminded me of Custis' life-long cash flow problems and the later struggles Lee experienced trying to settle Custis' will and bring financial stability to the Arlington Estate.

Nowadays we make do well enough at Arlington House, but tight funds are nothing new. In fact, a quick look at the index in Murray Nelligan's, *Arlington House The Story of the Robert E. Lee Memorial*, bears this out.



Arlington House, viewed from the south

The entry titled "chronic insolvency" includes at least six pages! In 1827, Custis wrote, "We must hope for the best...for my part I have truly been so long used to misfortune that good news would be truly unexpected and surprising to me...I have been often in want of [a] single dollar..." At about the same time, Nelligan points out that Robert E. Lee's father, "Light Horse Harry" Lee's fortunes were also "at ebb." And it didn't get much better. Just four years before he died, Custis wrote, "I have not to accuse myself of any extravagance—I have not owned a saddle horse to ride for 6 years—I have not drove a nail into my unfinished house."

Yet they managed. When settling Custis' estate, Lee wrote his oldest son to say, "Debts

are pouring in on me..." But he went on to say, "So far I have paid all that have been presented..."

Like Lee, I sometimes think all the various costs associated with keeping Arlington House running smoothly are pouring in on me. But, and in large part thanks to you, I think we too will manage. Especially with the help of volunteers like you, Arlington House will be able to keep welcoming visitors much as it has for the past 200 years.

As always, thank you for your time and help.

Kendell Thompson
Site Manager
Arlington House,
The Robert E. Lee Memorial

Spring & Summer Special Events New Arrival



April 16

“Lee’s Great Decision”—Return to April, 1861 when Robert E. Lee struggled with an agonizing choice between “honor and duty”. This somber program offers a rare evening glimpse into the rooms of Arlington House by candlelight. Reservations for the 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. walk-throughs of the House are available by calling 703.235.1530.



April 27

George Washington Parke Custis Birthday Commemoration—Join Ranger Matt Penrod in a guided walk at Arlington House focusing on Arlington House Estate founder George Washington Parke Custis. A self-taught painter, playwright and agricultural innovator, Custis was an interesting man in his own right, but is often overshadowed by his “father” General George Washington and his son-in-law Robert E. Lee.

May

“Many things of value abstracted...”—In May, 1861, Mary Lee left Arlington House in a “frenzied” state with tearful goodbyes and valuable china nailed into boxes in the basement. This month, Arlington House will reflect this exodus through objects exhibited in various rooms of the mansion from the museum collection.

June

MARRIED. At Arlington House, by the Rev. Dr. KEITH, Lieut. ROBERT LEE of the U. States Corps of Engineers, to Miss MARY A.R. CUSTIS.”—*Alexandria Gazette*, July 6, 1831. This month, Arlington House will be decorated to celebrate the Lee wedding in the Arlington House parlor on June 30, 1861.

June 5

Arlington House Woodlands Rescue—Volunteers are needed to help eradicate invasive, exotic plants from the Arlington House Woodlands, an uncut vestige of forest George Washington Parke Custis set aside in 1802. Beginning at 9 a.m., work teams will remove invasive exotic plants.

June 12



“Officers in the Garden”—Return to the spring of 1864 when the grounds of Arlington House were officially transformed into a national cemetery. Rangers and volunteers will give talks and guided walks to commemorate this fascinating and controversial period in Arlington history. Reenactors from the 3rd U.S. Infantry will be encamped on the site.



June 27

“Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee”—A special talk on the Lee marriage will be given at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. to celebrate the couple’s 173rd wedding anniversary.



Catherine Weinraub, Arlington House Museum Technician, and her husband David, welcomed Michael Scott Weinraub to their family on March 2, 2004 at 9:46 pm. He weighed 7 pounds, 8.6 ounces at birth and was 19.4 inches long. Catherine is on maternity leave until early May, although she has been sighted in the OAB with grandmother and baby in tow.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please contact Delphine Gross no later than the 20th of each month with availability dates and times to be posted the following month (Please call by April 20th with May information). Even if you are a regularly scheduled VIP please contact Delphine to confirm your availability. Again, the contact number is (703) 235-1530 ext. 227. Please leave the dates and times you are available on the voice mail. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Area Special Events

April 2-3

Living history and reenactment. "Dixie Days" includes living history encampments, demonstrations and reenactment of the Battle of Bethesda Church just east of Mechanicsville, Virginia on US 360 at the Hanover Ruritan Park. Original earthworks at site. 10 am-5 pm Friday, 9 am-6 pm Saturday. Battle at 2 pm Saturday. All free. 804-746-8620, www.coldharborguards.com or email kingwm@aol.com.

April 2-4

"Celebrate South Weekend," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia. Gala weekend honors Georgia this year. Activities include special tours, black-tie ball and much more. More info: www.moc.org or 804-649-1861.

Living history, "History on the Lawn," at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History. Event commemorates the "Last Capital of the Confederacy" Danville, Virginia in April 1865. Encampments, lectures, cooking demonstrations and tours of Danville's Civil

War sites included in weekend activities. More info and specific schedule: 434-793-5644 or www.danvillemuseum.org.

April 3

Hike, ranger-led 1.5-mile walking tour covers the fighting at Burnside Bridge at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland. 1-3:30 pm. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/anti or 301-432-5124.

Van Tour, "In the Steps of Robert Sneden," covers the Union artist on the Peninsula. Includes Fort Monroe, Big Bethel, Yorktown and more. Begins at Lee Hall in Newport News, Virginia at 9 am. \$35. Reservations: 757-888-3371 or www.leehall.org.

Living history walking tour, "Courage! The Civil War in Washington," meet city residents during guided 90-minute walk in the Civil War city. Begins 11 am at 10th and E Street NW, Washington, DC at the Cosi Coffee. \$14 adults. Mention you saw it on www.civilwartraveler.com and get a \$2 discount. More info 301-588-9255 or www.historicstrolls.com.

April 3-4

Living history encampment and demonstrations by the 11th New Jersey at the Pennsylvania Memorial in the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 422.

Living history, anniversary encampment at the Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park near Farmville, Virginia. Demonstrations, special talks, Hillsman House open. Free. More information: 434-392-3435 or www.dcr.state.va.us.

Civil War Weekend in downtown Suffolk, Virginia, living history programs, special museum and bus tours, and guest speakers highlight the event. More information: 866-SEE-SUFK or www.Suffolk-Fun.com.

Seminar, "This Has Been a Terrible Ordeal:

The Gettysburg Campaign and the First Day of Battle." Sponsored by the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Fee charged. Registration info: 717-334-1124 extension 447.

Civil War Show, hundreds of tables of artifacts, prints and weapons for show and sale, at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center (near intersection of Routes 50 and 28) in Chantilly, Virginia. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-2 pm Sunday. \$8. 703-823-1958.

Living history, "Civil War Medicine," at Endview Plantation in Newport News, Virginia. Free with admission. 757-887-1862 or www.endview.org.

April 4

Hike, ranger-led three-mile walking tour follows the Union IX Corps route into the Confederate defenses at the Harpers Ferry Road Bridge at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland. 1-3:30 pm. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/anti or 301-432-5124.

Living history, Confederate Heritage Parade on Richmond's Monument Avenue followed by ceremony at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia. Begins at DMV Drive (north side of Broad Street, two blocks north of Monument Avenue) at 2 pm. Free. 804-261-2798.

April 9-12

Anniversary programs commemorating the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Free with park admission. 434-352-8987 or www.nps.gov/apco.

April 10

Hike, ranger-led 1.5-mile walking tour covers stories of the color bearers and their flags at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland. 1-3:30 pm. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/anti or 301-432-5124.

Battlefield hike, First Manassas. Five-mile,



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House was the home of Robert E. Lee and his family for thirty years and is uniquely associated with the Washington and Custis families. It is now preserved as a memorial to General Lee, who gained the respect of Americans in both the North and the South.

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

Phone
703-235-1530

Web Site
<http://www.nps.gov/arho>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Area Special Events (continued)

four-hour tour begins at 1 pm at the Henry Hill visitor center, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Manassas, Virginia. Park fee applies. 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

April 10-11

Living history, “*Men and Women of 1862*,” examines changing wartime gender roles at Endview Plantation in Newport News, Virginia. Free with admission. 757-887-1862 or www.endview.org.

April 11

Hike, ranger-led two-mile hike covers The Cornfield and other nearby action at the Antietam National Battlefield. 1:15-3:30 pm. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/anti or 301-432-5124.

Guided tour of the site of a Confederate Civil War camp and a freedman’s farm on President James Madison’s estate, Montpelier, near Orange, Virginia. Estate was used during the winter of 1863-64 by South Carolina troops. 2 pm. Free with admission (\$11 adults). 540-672-2728 or www.montpelier.org.

April 14

Lecture, “*The Sublimity of Battle and the Quietude of Remembrance: Picturing the Civil War within the Valley Landscape*,” at the Knowledge Point, 20 S. Cameron St. in Winchester, Virginia. 7:30 pm. Free. Reservations. 540-535-3543 or www.theknowledgepoint.org.

April 15

Lecture, “*The Slave Trade Confronted: Captain Bell’s Voyage*,” discusses efforts to stop the trade at sea. Talk at the USS Constellation in the Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland. 7 pm. \$12 at door, \$10 advance. 410-539-1797 or www.constellation.org.

April 15-18

Tour, “*Wilderness and Spotsylvania*,” Civil War Weekend tour includes three nights upscale lodging, 2-1/2-day guided tour and most meals. \$595. 866-CWW-TOUR or

www.civilwarweekend.com

April 16

Dinner/lecture with Rebecca Lyons at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. 6 pm. Reservations required. Details: 866-258-4729 or www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

April 17

Hike, ranger-led two-mile walking tour covers the fighting and advance to The Sunken Road at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland. 1-3:30 pm. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/anti or 301-432-5124.

Bus Tour, “*John Wilkes Booth Escape Route*,” sponsored by the Surratt Society. 12-hour tour traces Booth’s path after shooting Lincoln at Ford’s Theater. \$50. Details, registration, 301-868-1121 or see www.surratt.org for details.

Special program, “*Remembrance of the Pratt Street Riot and Lincoln’s 1864 Baltimore Address*,” in Baltimore, Maryland. Begins 10 am with a walk through Fell’s Point to the Baltimore Civil War Museum at President Street Station, then walk continues to Camden Station. Talks and ceremonies along the way. www.mdhs.org or 410-461-9377.

Living history, “*Military Uniform Fashion Show*,” includes Civil War soldiers in full dress at Endview Plantation in Newport News, Virginia. Free with admission. 757-887-1862 or www.endview.org.

Living history walking tour, “*Courage! The Civil War in Washington*,” meet city residents during guided 90-minute walk in the Civil War city. Begins 11 am at 10th and E Street NW, Washington, DC at the Cosi Coffee. \$14 adults. Mention you saw it on www.civilwartraveler.com and get a \$2 discount. More info 301-588-9255 or www.historicstrolls.com.

Living history, “Civil War Homefront,” civilian and military demonstrations and

family activities at Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News, Virginia. 10 am-4 pm. Free with admission. 757-888-3371 or www.leehall.org.

April 17-18

Living history encampment and demonstrations by Maryland and Pennsylvania units at the Pennsylvania Memorial and Georgia troops at Pitzer Woods in the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. 717-334-1124 extension 422 or www.nps.gov/gett.

World premier of the play “*Robert E. Lee, Shades of Gray*,” one-man-show starring Tom Dugan as Lee pondering his April 9, 1865, meeting with U.S. Grant at Appomattox. At the Carpenter Center, 600 E. Grace St. in Richmond, Virginia. Performances 8 pm Saturday and 2 pm Sunday. Tickets are \$37 and \$39.50. More info: www.carpentercenter.com.

Civil War Weekend at Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg, Virginia. Living history, military and civilian demonstrations and much more. Free with admission. www.pamplinpark.org or 877-PAMPLIN.

April 18

Walking tour, “*The Wheatfield*,” at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A Civil War Education Association tour. \$125. Details: 800-298-1861 or www.cwea.net.

April 20

Dinner/lecture, Bing Spitler talks about his book “*Hero of the Republic: The Biography of Triple Medal of Honor Winner*,” at the West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling, West Virginia. 5:30 pm. Dinner/talk \$20; talk only \$7. 304-238-1300.

April 23-25

Tour, “*The Lower Valley in 1864*,” includes walking tours of Third Winchester, Fisher’s Hill, Tom’s Brook and Cedar Creek, Virginia led by Robert K. Krick. A Civil War Education Association tour. \$295. Details: 800-298-1861 or www.cwea.net.

Significant Historic Events in April

April 30, 1781

George Washington Parke Custis, the seventh child of John “Jack” and Eleanor “Nelly” Calvert Custis, was born at Mount Airy, Maryland.

April 22, 1788

Mary Lee Fitzhugh, the future Molly Custis, was born at “Chatham” near Fredericksburg. (“Chatham” now serves as park headquarters for the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park and is open to the public.)

April 30, 1805

WP Custis inaugurated his first sheep-shearing at Arlington Spring, an event which was held on or about his birthday through April 30. The sheep-shearing consisted of an exhibition of rams and ewes which were then shorn. Mr. Custis awarded prizes to the owners of sheep with the heaviest and finest wool. After a customary feast beneath the Washington war tents, the host usually made a speech, frequently stressing the importance of American economic independence from Europe.

April 1, 1824

Robert E. Lee accepted an appointment as a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He had been appointed by Secretary of War John C. Calhoun.

April 11, 1834

After almost three years of marriage, Mary Lee was concerned that her husband had not yet experienced a religious conversion. “I cannot but feel that he still wants the one thing without which all the rest may prove valueless,” Mary confided to her mother. “We read the Bishop’s pastoral letter which he pronounced excellent, but made no further comment.”

April 25, 1836

GWP Custis notified the superintendent of the Capitol that he would send his agent to remove his painting, “the Battle of Trenton,” from the building, saying he hoped “for more charity from the public toward the

production of a self-taught artist. A set of hired scribblers who infest the Capitol must abuse someone, or something, that the Labourer may be worthy of his hire...I have now ordered Rice to remove the picture and on his return to cast it from the Bridge into the Potomac that it may offend no more.”

April 21, 1853

In the evening, Mary Lee Fitzhugh Custis suffered a stroke which proved fatal two days later.

April 23, 1853

Mary Lee Fitzhugh Custis died at Arlington House at 1:20 p.m. on the day following her 65th birthday. Doctors advised she “looked very grave & told us she was in much peril.”

April 27, 1853

Mrs. Custis’s funeral was held at Arlington House. Because of Mr. Custis’s condition, the service was private and conducted by the pastor of Christ Church, Alexandria. Afterwards, “the coffin was borne to the grave by four servants -- Austin, Lawrence, Daniel and Ephraim -- followed by Mrs. Lee and her daughters, a number of relatives, and a long train of weeping servants. Mrs. Lee provided her friends with bouquets of spring flowers, and as the coffin was lowered into the grave, these were cast in upon it in a last gesture of affection and respect.”

April 12, 1861

The Confederate States fired on the federal forces at Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.

April 13, 1861

Federal forces at Fort Sumter surrendered.

April 17, 1861

Lee received two letters. One was from General Winfield Scott asking him to call at his office in Washington on April 18. The other was from Francis P. Blair, former publisher of the “Congressional Globe,” and father of Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, who asked Lee to meet with him on the morning of April 18 at Blair’s home.

The Virginia secession convention voted to adopt the Ordinance of Secession by a vote of 88 to 55, and set May 23 as the date for a public referendum on ratification. However, Lee did not learn of the adoption of the Ordinance until April 19.

April 18, 1861

Lee first met with Francis Blair at his home on Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House. Blair, at the authorization of President Lincoln and Secretary of War Cameron, asked if Lee would accept command of the army being organized. Lee stated in 1868 that he had “declined the offer...to take command of the army that was to be brought into the field, stating as candidly and as courteously as I could, that though opposed to secession and deprecating war, I could take no part in an invasion of the Southern States.”

After the Blair meeting, Lee met with General Scott, informed him of Blair’s offer and explained why he could not accept it. General Scott told Lee that if he proposed to resign from the United States Army, he should do so at once. According to a statement of Mrs. Lee made years later, General Scott also told Lee that he had made the greatest mistake of his life.

Lee’s third meeting that day was with his brother, Sydney Smith Lee, who was then on duty with the Navy in Washington. The details of the meeting are unknown, but it appears that the Lees discussed the question of resigning from the military service and that they agreed to meet again before taking any action.

This was the last day Robert E. Lee was to spend in Washington until after the Civil War.

April 19, 1861

Colonel and Mrs. Robert E. Lee went into Alexandria on business and there they heard the news that the Virginia convention had voted to adopt the Ordinance of Secession. The Lees returned to Arlington where

Significant Historic Events in April (continued)

friends and relatives were gathering. Lee went outside and paced under the trees to the east of the garden for some time and then came into the house and went to his bed chamber. Those in the parlor below could hear his footsteps as he paced the floor.

According to J. William Jones, an early biographer, Lee was also “heard frequently to fall on his knees and engage in earnest prayer for divine guidance.”

April 20, 1861

After midnight, Robert E. Lee wrote 2 letters, a brief letter resigning his commission in the United States Army, and a longer letter to General Scott. According to J. Williams Jones, who had later spoken with Mrs. Lee, Robert E. Lee came down the stairs “calm, collected, almost cheerful, and said, “Well, Mary, the question is settled. Here is my letter of resignation, and a letter I have written General Scott.” According to another source--and somewhat less probably--Mary Lee is said to have replied, “Whichever way you go will be in the path of duty. You will think it right, and I shall be satisfied.”

April 22, 1861

Robert E. Lee left Arlington House for the last time. He traveled by carriage to Alexandria early in the morning, met Judge Robertson there, and both men boarded a train for Richmond.

They arrived in late afternoon and that evening met with Governor Letcher in the capitol, who informed Lee that the convention had passed an ordinance providing for the appointment of a commander for the military and naval forces of Virginia with the rank of Major General. “The advisory council had recommended Lee for this post. Letcher had formally tendered it to him on April 21, and had sent a messenger whom Lee had probably passed on the road.”

Lee accepted the position and that same night, before the convention adjourned, Lee’s name was sent for confirmation,” with a simple note that Lee had determined to

resign from the United States Army before the convention had created the office to which Lee was nominated. The convention at once and unanimously approved the choice.”

April 23, 1861

Robert E. Lee appeared before the Virginia secession convention to receive formal notice of his appointment. Convention President John Janney extolled Lee’s abilities with references to “Light Horse Harry” Lee and George Washington. Lee’s speech followed slowly and distinctly to “Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention: “...Trusting in Almighty God, an approving conscience, and the aid of my fellow citizens, I devote myself to the service of my native State, in whose behalf alone will I ever again draw my sword.”

April 5, 1863

General Lee, having suffered a probable undiagnosed heart attack in late March, wrote Mrs. Lee from a private home near Fredericksburg where he had been taken:

“I shall get quite well again. I am suffering with a bad cold as I told you, and the doctors thought I was threatened with some malady which must be dreadful if it resembles its name, but which I have forgotten. So they bundled me up on Monday last (March 30) and brought me over to Mr. Yuby’s where I have a comfortable room with Perry to attend to me. I have not been so very sick, though have suffered a good deal of pain in my chest, back, & arms. It came on in paroxysms, was quite sharp & seemed to me to be a mixture of yours & Agnes’s diseases...the doctors are very attentive & kind & have examined my lungs, my heart, circulation, etc. I believe they pronounce me tolerable sound. They have been tapping me all over like an old steam boiler before condemning it.”

April 7, 1865

General Grant sent General Lee an invitation to surrender: “The result of the last week must convince you of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of

Northern Virginia in this struggle. I feel that if it is so, and regard it as my duty to shift from myself the responsibility of any further effusion of blood, by asking of you the surrender of that portion of the C.S. Army known as the Army of Northern Virginia.”

General Lee replied to General Grant’s note of the previous day: “To be frank, I do not think the emergency has arisen to call for the surrender of this army, but as the restoration of peace should be the sole object of all, I desired to know whether your proposals would lead to that end. I cannot, therefore, meet you with a view to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia; but as far as your proposal may affect the C.S. forces under my command, & tend to the restoration of peace, I should be pleased to meet you at 10 a.m. tomorrow, on the old stage road to Richmond, between the picket lines of the two armies.”

April 8, 1865

“The road to Lynchburg, next goal of Lee’s badly harried army, passed through hamlets and villages and Appomattox Station near Appomattox Court House.” By the end of the day, the route to Lynchburg was blocked by Federal troops, and the Army of Northern Virginia was nearly surrounded by an overwhelming force.

“In the morning, Lee was informed that a number of officers had conferred the evening before and agreed the army could not get through to join Johnson and that he ought to open negotiations. Lee refused the suggestion, made to spare him from taking the lead in surrender. Other officers disagreed also. That night, near Appomattox, Lee held his final council of war.”

April 9, 1865

At dawn, near Appomattox Station, the Confederates attacked the Federal troops in front of them. “At first the infantry of Gordon and Fitzhugh Lee’s cavalry were successful, but there was more than just enemy cavalry in front of them. The route was blocked by infantry. The Union forces

Significant Historic Events in April (continued)

drove in, and on the east other Federals under Meade attacked the Confederate rear guard. Escape was impossible.” General Lee asked General Grant for a “suspension of hostilities pending the adjustment of the terms of the surrender of this army.”

In the early afternoon, Generals Lee and Grant met in the home of Wilmer McLean in Appomattox Court House. It was Palm Sunday and the Courthouse, itself, was locked.

“There was a brief discussion of terms...: officers and men surrendered were to be paroled and disqualified from taking up arms until properly exchanged; arms, ammunition, and supplies were to be turned over as captured property...The terms did not include surrender of side arms of officers or of their private horses or baggage, and allowed each officer and man to go home and not be disturbed as long as parole was observed. Lee then brought up the fact that cavalymen and artillerists owned their own horses, which would be needed for the spring planting. After a short conference, Grant agreed to let those who claimed horses have them. Arrangements also were made to feed Lee’s army from Federal supplies... Legend to the contrary, Lee did not surrender his sword to Grant.”

“Lee returned to his waiting, anxious army. As the men crowded around him, he spoke softly, ‘I have done for you all that it was in my power to do. You have done all your duty. Leave the result to God. Go to your homes and resume your occupations. Obey the laws and become as good citizens as you were soldiers.’ Hats off, the men stood with ‘swimming eyes.’ Lee rode bareheaded, his eyes to neither left nor right.”

April 10, 1865

General Robert E. Lee issued his last general orders:

“After 4 years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and

resources...By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a Merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection. With an increasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous considerations for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.”

“As General Order No. 9 was being prepared, word came to General Lee that Grant was on his way. Lee went to meet him and the two conferred for some time. Lee hoped that there would be no more sacrifice of life; Grant urged Lee to advise surrender of all the Confederate armies. Lee replied that this was up to President Davis. Other officers, including Meade, visited Lee. Memories and curiosity seemed to draw them all together.”

April 12, 1865

General Lee wrote to President Davis a report of the surrender of his army at Appomattox Court House. Then “quietly and unceremoniously he left his last headquarters” and rode toward Richmond accompanied by some members of his headquarters staff.

April 14, 1865

Shortly after 10 p.m., President Abraham Lincoln was shot in the head by John Wilkes Booth at Ford’s Theatre. The unconscious President was carried across the street to the home of William Petersen.

General Lee and his remaining staff members reached the home of Lee’s brother, Charles Carter, in Powhatan County. Because the house was crowded, Lee insisted on sleeping in his tent. “It was his final bivouac, the last night he ever slept under canvas.”

April 15, 1865

At 7:22 a.m., President Abraham Lincoln died.

General Lee reached Richmond in the middle of a spring downpour. He “had put aside his best uniform and had on one that had seen long service, but he still wore a sword...His mount was Traveller...a ride of less than a mile, from the pontoons to the residence at 707 East Franklin Street, the crowd grew thicker with each block. Cheers broke out, in which the Federals joined heartily. Hats went off, and uniform caps of blue along with them. General Lee acknowledged the greetings by uncovering repeatedly, but he was manifestly anxious to finish his journey as quickly as he could.”

Arriving in front of the house, he turned his horse over to one of the men attending the wagons. The heartbroken civilians of Richmond, widows, old men and maidens thronged him as the soldiers had at Appomattox. They wanted to speak to him and shake his hand and...touch his uniform...he grasped as many outstretched palms as he could. With his emotions strained almost to tears, he made his way to the iron gate, and up the granite steps. Bowing again to the crowd, he entered the house and closed the door. His marching over and his battles done, Robert E. Lee unbelted his sword forever.”

April 19, 1865

Funeral services for President Lincoln were held in the East Room of the White House.

April 20, 1865

General Lee, in a typically diplomatic letter to Jefferson Davis, urged the fleeing Confederate President to consider the “suspension of hostilities and the restoration of peace.”

April 28, 1909

The remains of Pierre Charles L’Enfant lay in state for three hours in the United States Capitol. At noon, a military escort conveyed them to Arlington Cemetery where they were buried with full military honors in front of Arlington House.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Lee's Gingerbread

There were seven recipes in *The Robert E. Lee Family Cooking and Housekeeping Book* for gingerbread; therefore, it must have been a family favorite. Most of the recipes call for molasses; molasses during the Lee's time would have been stronger and more bitter than today's. Therefore, gingerbread made with this recipe will not taste exactly as the Lee's would have made it but it is close.

6 cups flour 1 of lard with a table spoonfull of butter, two tea spoonfuls salt, a cup of butter milk, teaspoonful of soda sifted with flour, a full cup of brown sugar, as much molasses as will make a dough which must be rolled out and baked in a moderate oven. The dough should be well worked out and rolled with flour enough to make the cakes smooth but not to have any on the outside when baked.

6 c. flour
1 t. baking soda
2 t. salt
1 c. minus 1 T. lard
1 T. butter
1 c. brown sugar, lightly packed
1 c. buttermilk
About 1 c. dark molasses
5 T. ginger or 4 T. ginger, 2 t. cinnamon, and 1 t. cloves

Sift flour with salt, baking soda, and spices. Cream together lard, butter, and brown sugar. Stir flour mixture and buttermilk, adding alternately until well mixed. Stir in molasses until dough is the right consistency to be rolled. On a floured surface, roll out to a thickness of about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and cut into 2- to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ - inch rounds or other shapes. Bake at 350 degrees 12-15 minutes. Makes about 6 dozen. The dough keeps for weeks when refrigerated and indefinitely when frozen. Serve with tea or light dessert.

(From Anne Carter Zimmer's *The Robert E. Lee Family Cooking and Housekeeping Book*)



North Slave Quarters, c. 1933

New Curator



Mary Troy, Arlington House curator

Mary Troy comes to Arlington House from the Museum Curator position at the Clara Barton NHS and Glen Echo Park. Prior to that she was an Archaeologist with the Northeast Cultural Resources Center in Lowell, MA, a Northeast Regional support office.

Ms. Troy also detailed as museum curator at Assateague Island National Seashore in Berlin, MD in 1998, 1999 and 2000. While with the Northeast region, she worked on archaeological, curatorial, natural resource, and archival projects in a variety of National Parks including Acadia, Adams NHP, Women's Rights, Gettysburg, Saugus Iron Works, Cape Cod National Seashore, Statue of Liberty, Home of Franklin Roosevelt, The Vanderbilt Mansion, Assateague Island, Canyonlands, Saint Croix Island, Washington's Birthplace, Sitka and Jean Lafitte.

She is an avid cyclist and is eager to test her new mountain bike on the trails. She loves to travel, explore, sample different cuisines, and cook for friends and family.

April 2004

Arlington House VIP Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Elaine Street 10:30-1:00 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30	2	3 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30
4 Robyn Vai 11:30-2:30 Jim Pearson 12:00-4:30	5 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	6 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	7 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30 Anne Bauersfield 9:30-2:00 Elene Paul 12:30-4:30	8 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Elaine Street 10:30-1:00 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30	9	10 Elene Paul 10:00-3:00 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30
11 Jim Pearson 12:00-4:30 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30	12 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00 Jim Pearson 12:00-4:30 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	13 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	14 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30 Anne Cake 12:00-3:00	15 Walter DeGroot 9:30-12:30 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-2:00	16 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30	17 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30
18 Jim Pearson 12:00-4:30	19 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	20 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	21 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30 Anne Bauersfield 9:30-2:00 Anne Cake 12:00-3:00	22 Walter DeGroot 9:30-12:30 Elaine Street 10:30-2:00	23 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30	24 Kirsten Wolfe 9:30-4:30
25 Elene Paul 10:00-3:00 Jim Pearson 12:00-4:30	26 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	27 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	28 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30 Anne Bauersfield 9:30-2:00 Anne Cake 12:00-3:00	29 Walter DeGroot 9:30-12:30 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-2:00	30	

If you are available to volunteer, but are not on the calendar please call Delphine so you can be added to the schedule.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

<<Name>>
<<Address>>
<<CityStateZip>>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Spectacle is a monthly newsletter for the volunteers of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

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Keith Drews

Comments? Write to:

Kendell Thompson, Site Manager
Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

Volunteers Needed

The roster of active volunteers is in dire need of additional names!!! If you know anyone interested in joining our ranks please refer them to Delphine Gross, Volunteer Coordinator (703) 235-1530 ext. 227.

